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NORTHCUT FAMILY PAPERS
1854 - 1942

Processed by:

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INTRODUCTION

The Northcut Family Papers, composed of letters and documents belonging primarily to H. B. Northcut and his sons, Tom and Jim, were obtained by purchase from the Fanny Moffitt Estate in Altamont, Tennessee, December 2, 1955.

The materials in this collection measure 4.84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Northcut Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Northcut Family Papers, numbering approximately 1,750 items, consist largely of record books, notes, cancelled checks, and receipts accumulated from the Northcuts' mercantile business. There are also legal and business documents and many business letters. The documents, which are the most interesting papers in the collection, consist of business agreements, land deeds, Grundy County Court records of 1895, and records of the Northcut family civil suit of 1892. The record books are arranged in two series. The numbered series are the charge account records of the Beersheba Springs store, and the lettered series are the records of the Altamont store. There are also records of checks received and cashed and records of wholesale purchases. The record books date from 1866 to 1938. The bulk of the material in the collection falls within the period 1860 – 1895, but the inclusive dates range from 1854 to 1942.

The correspondence and notes in the collection belonging primarily to H. B. Northcut and his sons, Tom and Jim, deal with land transactions, coal mining, mercantile business, and law suits. The Northcuts, the most prosperous merchants in Grundy County, owned large quantities of land, leased out mining rights to local coal mining concerns, and loaned considerable sums of money which invariably involved them in civil court cases. There are a few personal letters in the collection, but among them are some very interesting letters for the Northcut's unfortunate debtors, who became delinquent in repayment.

The collection includes an interesting diary, probably of J. B. Ritchey relating his experiences with a Confederate wagon train as it moved through Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas during the last two years of the war. Also included is a diary of Jim Northcut for 1939, an autograph book of Timmy Northcut, and various miscellaneous notebooks, literary efforts, etc.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Northcut mercantile, land, and coal fortune was begun by Adrian Northcutt (1799- 1869) who established a trading post at Altamont in about 1825, which developed into a large general store in the 1840s. Adrian's son, H. B. Northcut (1829-1910) , began managing the store in 1850 and took over the business after his father's death. After the Civil War, H. B. Northcut established a second store in Beersheba. By 1890, his two sons, Tom (1864-) and Jim (1867-), were operating the two stores. They also operated a hotel in Beersheba Springs. H. B. Northcut's only daughter, Timmy (1870-1928) was educated at the McMinnville Female Academy and was a woman of intelligence. She married James Moffitt (- 1896). Their only child, Fanny (1893-1955) eventually became heir to the Northcut fortune. The Northcut store in Altamont closed during the Depression. The store in Beersheba Springs was taken over by the Brown family after Tom Northcut's death and is still owned and run by the Browns.

DESCRIPTION of SERIES

<u>Container Numbers</u>	<u>Series</u>
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1 – 7	Account Books of H. B. Northcut and Sons. 1866 – 1938, chronologically arranged.
8	Autograph Books of Timmy and Jim Northcut. 1 Folder
8 – 9	Notes, Bills, and Receipts of H. B. Northcut and Sons. 1858-1929, 24 Folders chronologically arranged
9 – 10	Checks of H. B. Northcut and Sons, 1892-1930, 2 Large Folders
10	Diaries, 1865 and 1939, 2 Folders
10 – 11	Documents, 1849-1918, 15 Folders chronologically arranged
12	Literary Efforts, Newspaper Clippings, Note Books, Personal Letters, etc., 9 Folders, 1861-1932

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Account Book, H. B. Northcut, 1866-
2. Account Book K, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1903-1917

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 1

3. Account Book L, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1917-1919
4. Account Book M, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1920-1921
5. Account Book N, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1918-1922
6. Account Book N, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1919-1921

Microfilm Roll #3

Box 2

1. Account Book O, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1922-1925
2. Account Book P, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1926-1928
3. Account Book Q, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1927-1938

Microfilm Roll #4

Box 3

1. Account Book No. 2, Northcut & Sons, 1892-1894
2. Account Book No. 3, Northcut & Sons, 1895-1898
3. Account Book No. 4, Northcut & Sons, 1901-1903
4. Account Book No. 13, Northcut & Sons, 1915-1916

Box 4

1. Account Book No. 16, Northcut & Sons, 1921-1923

Microfilm Roll #5

Box 4

2. Account Book No. 17, Northcut & Sons, 1922-1924
3. Account Book No. 18, Northcut & Sons, 1924-1925

Box 5

1. Account Book No. 19, Northcut & Sons, 1925-1927
2. Account Book No. 20, Northcut & Sons, 1927-1936

Microfilm Roll #6

Box 6

1. Account Book (Day Book), 1907-1915
2. Account Book (Chks. received & cashed), 1910-
3. Account Book (Chks. received & cashed), 1911 -1912
4. Account Book (Chks. received & cashed), 1913 -1914
5. Account Book (Chks. received & cashed), 1915 -1916

Box 7

1. Account Book (Bills pd. to Wholesalers), 1919-1926

Microfilm Roll #7

Box 7

2. Account Book (Bills pd. to Wholesalers), 1927-1929
3. Account Book (Rent Record), 1928-1942

Box 8

1. Autograph Book – Timmy & Jim Northcut, 1883-1885
2. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1858
3. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, - 1859
4. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, Jan -June 1860
5. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, July-Dec 1860
6. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1861
7. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1862 -1864
8. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1864-1866
9. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1867
10. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1868-1869
11. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1870
12. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1871
13. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, -1872
14. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1874-1876
15. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1877-1879
16. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1880-1882
17. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1883-1885
18. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut, 1886-1888
19. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1889-1891
20. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, -1898
21. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, - 1899
22. Bills, Notes, Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1901-1914

Box 9

1. Bills-Notes & Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1917-1929
2. Bills-Notes & Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, No Date
3. Bills-Notes & Receipts, H. B. Northcut & Sons, No Date
4. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut, 1859-1861

Microfilm Roll #8

Box 9

5. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut, 1866-1872
6. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut, 1877-1888
7. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1904-1908
8. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1910-1923
9. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut & Sons, 1927-1942
10. Business Letters, H. B. Northcut & Sons, No Date
11. Checks and Bank Statements

Box 10

1. Checks and Bank Statements
2. Checks and Promissory Note Books
3. Diaries – James B. Ritchey, 1864-1865
4. Diary – J. H. Northcut, -1939

Box 11

1. Documents – Business Agreements, 1865-1920
2. Documents – Briefs of Northcut vs. Thomas, Land & Coal, Tennessee Supreme Court, -1913
3. Documents – Grundy County Court Records, -1895
4. Documents – Land Deeds, 1849-1906
5. Documents – Land Deeds, 1880 -1890
6. Documents, Legal (Oath, License, Wills), 1858 -1903
7. Documents, Legal (Tax Bills, Subpoenas), -1890
8. Documents, Northcut-Parmley Case (Bill of Complaint), -1892
9. Documents, Northcut-Parmley Case (Briefs), -1893
10. Documents, Northcut-Parmley Case (Cross Examination), -1893
11. Documents, Northcut-Parmley Case (Cross Examination), -1893
12. Documents, Northcut-Parmley Case (Subpoenas), 1892-1893
13. Documents, Notary Public, 1859-1861
14. Documents, Tax Forms, etc., 1874-1918
15. Documents, Miscellaneous, 1858-1918

Microfilm Roll #9

Box 12

1. Literary Efforts
2. Music and memorabilia
3. Note Books – Miscellaneous records, 1859-1875
4. Note Books – Miscellaneous records, 1907-1922
5. Personal Letters, 1861-1903
6. Prescriptions and Remedies
7. Records, Miscellaneous
8. Work Record, -1875

Volumes Separately Wrapped

1. Account Book I, Altamont, 1906-1912
2. Account Book L, Altamont, 1916-1920